

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently Amended) A water-in-silicone oil emulsion, comprising: comprising
(i) in the range from 0.1 to 25% by weight of particles of metal oxide in an aqueous dispersion, wherein the dispersed metal oxide particles have having a median particle volume diameter in dispersion in the range from 18 to 32 nm;
(ii) 5 to 60% by weight of silicone oil; and, and
(iii) greater than 20% by weight of water;
wherein the emulsion comprises a change in whiteness ΔL of less than 3.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) An emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the metal oxide particles are hydrophobic.
4. (Previously Presented) An emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the metal oxide particles comprise titanium dioxide.
5. (Previously Presented) An emulsion according to claim 1 wherein the mean length of the metal oxide particles is in the range from 50 to 90 nm, and the mean width is in the range from 5 to 20 nm.
6. (Currently Amended) An emulsion according to any claim 1 wherein the metal oxide particles have a median particle volume diameter in dispersion of 23 to 29 nm, ~~preferably 24 to 28 nm.~~
7. (Previously Presented) An emulsion according to claim 1 wherein the metal oxide particles in dispersion have (i) less than 16% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 10 nm below the median volume particle diameter, (ii) less than 30% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 6 nm below the median volume particle diameter, (iii) more than 95% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 55 nm above the median volume particle diameter, (iv) more than 84% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 13 nm above the median volume particle

diameter, and (v) more than 70% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 5 nm above the median volume particle diameter.

8. (Original) An emulsion according to claim 7 wherein the metal oxide particles in dispersion have (i) less than 16% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 4 nm below the median volume particle diameter, (ii) more than 95% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 30 nm above the median volume particle diameter, and (iii) more than 84% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 7 nm above the median volume particle diameter.

9. (Currently Amended) An emulsion according to claim 1 wherein the metal oxide particles have at least one, and preferably all, of (i) an extinction coefficient at 524 nm of less than 1.5 l/g/cm, (ii) an extinction coefficient at 450 nm in the range from 0.2 to 3.0 l/g/cm, (iii) an extinction coefficient at 360 nm in the range from 4.0 to 12.0 l/g/cm, (iv) an extinction coefficient at 308 nm in the range from 35 to 65 l/g/cm, (v) a maximum extinction coefficient in the range from 50 to 80 l/g/cm, and (vi) a $A_{(\max)} - \lambda_{(\max)}$ in the range from 265 to 287 nm.

10. (Original) An emulsion according to claim 9 wherein the metal oxide particles have an extinction coefficient at 524 nm in the range from 0.1 to 1.0 l/g/cm.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An emulsion according to claim 2~~ The emulsion of claim 1, wherein the aqueous dispersion comprises at least 25% by weight of metal oxide particles.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An emulsion according to claim 2~~ The emulsion of claim 1, wherein the aqueous dispersion comprises in the range from 2 to 15% by weight of at least one dispersing agent.

13. (Original) An emulsion according to claim 12 wherein the dispersing agent comprises at least one non-ionic surfactant.

14. (Previously Presented) An emulsion according to claim 1 comprising in the range from 5 to 50% by weight of at least one non-ionic dispersing agent, calculated with respect to the metal oxide particles.

15. (Previously Presented) An emulsion according to claim 1 comprising in the range from 0.1 to 10% by weight of at least one emulsifier.

16. (Original) An emulsion according to claim 15 wherein the emulsifier comprises a silicone emulsifier.

17. (Previously Presented) An emulsion according to claim 1 comprising less than 10% by weight of any oil other than silicone oil.

18. (Previously Presented) An emulsion according to claim 1 wherein silicone oil is the sole oil present.

19. (Currently Amended) An emulsion according to claim 1 having a change in whiteness ΔL of less than 3, preferably less than 2.5.

20. (Previously Presented) An emulsion according to claim 1 having a whiteness index in the range from 10 to 90%.

21. (Original and Withdrawn) A process for preparing a water-in-silicone oil emulsion which comprises mixing an aqueous dispersion comprising metal oxide particles having a median particle volume diameter in dispersion in the range from 18 to 32 nm, with a silicone oil under conditions in which a water-in-silicone oil emulsion is formed.

22. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn) A process according to claim 21 wherein the aqueous dispersion comprises at least 25% by weight of metal oxide particles.

23. (Original and Withdrawn) The use of an aqueous dispersion comprising metal oxide particles having a median particle volume diameter in dispersion in the range from 18 to 32 nm, to form a water-in-silicone oil emulsion.

24. (Original and Withdrawn) The use of an aqueous dispersion of metal oxide particles having a median particle volume diameter in dispersion in the range from 18 to 32 nm, in the manufacture of an emulsion having improved skin feel.

25. (New) The emulsion of claim 1, wherein the silicone oil comprises at least one non-volatile silicone oil.

26. (New) The emulsion of claim 1, wherein the emulsion is substantially exclusive of volatile silicone oils.